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Anthropology Newsletter

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ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS



Bringing Maine to the World and the World to Maine



Issue 1

Summer, 2008

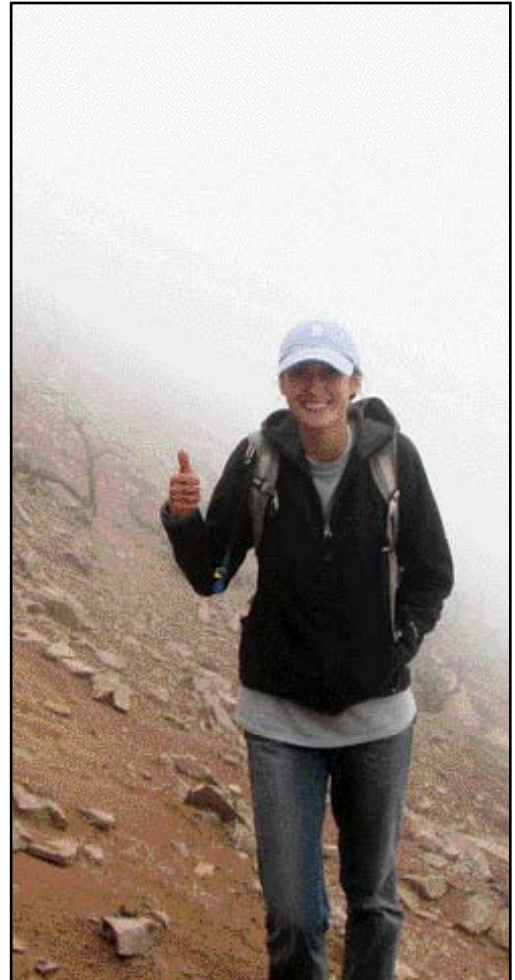
From the Chair

HELLO! THIS IS OUR FIRST Anthropology Newsletter and we are very excited to share with you all the new developments, changes, and interesting things that have been going on in Anthropology here over the last year. As you know, Anthropology covers the entire spectrum of human existence and we are doing our best to provide research and teaching exposure to much of this continuum – a big job! I eagerly compiled all of our hard work and fun times over this past year and Shelley Palmer, our most wonderful Administrative Assistant, worked diligently to put it all together. We hope you find this informative and we thank you for your interest in Anthropology at UMaine!

Kristin Sobolik

Moving Forward with Ph.D. Plans

We are planning a Ph.D. program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy. The program will train students to work within a multi-disciplinary framework that combines research and information from environmental sciences with social and cultural policy. Research and teaching will focus on sociocultural impacts of, and responses to, local and global environmental change and include such broad ranging topics as global climate change, energy, marine, and forestry resources, ecotourism, water management, and pollution control. Our goal is to train students to create and manage policy aimed at mitigating the negative environmental consequences of human action while promoting human well being. Our Intent to Plan was approved this past year, and we look forward to putting together the larger proposal this coming year. ■



Anthropology major, Laura Labbe, hikes in the fog at the Cola de Zorro Site in southern Peru. Along with Assistant Professor Greg Zaro, Laura is conducting summer research on human-induced desertification. Story on page 3.

Archaeological Fieldschool a Success

Nine students participated in the UMaine Archaeological Fieldschool this summer, which was held at several shell midden sites associated with prehistoric petroglyphs in Machias Bay. **Brian Robinson**, our resident Northeastern archaeological expert, directed the research which was funded with a prestigious MAPI (Maine Academic Prominence Initiative) grant provided by the University of Maine and co-written with **Lisa Neuman**, an Anthropology faculty member jointly appointed in Native American Studies. **Steve Bicknell** provided field and laboratory management skills, his forté! Numerous stone tools, lithic debitage, and animal bones were excavated, with the most significant finds including several living floors lined with beach gravel and European pottery attributed to French occupation among the Passamaquoddy. The fieldschool was conducted in cooperation with the Passamaquoddy petroglyph project, and UMaine students volunteered their services for a week working with the Passamaquoddy after the field school ended. The projects contribute an understanding of occupation sites associated with some of the most significant concentrations of petroglyphs in the Northeast and Atlantic Canada. ■



Asst. Professor Brian Robinson



Native American bone artifact and 17th century European pottery from Machias Bay.

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Peruvian Research is a Growing Anthropological Focus

Anthropology here at UMaine has a growing focus on research in Peru. Faculty interests extend from the earliest human occupations found on the continent, up through the prehistoric and historic time periods, to assessment of modern human ecology and land use. Faculty conduct research in the interior rainforests, mountains, deserts, and coastal regions of Peru, and have included undergraduate and graduate students.

This summer **Constanza Ocampo-Raeder**, an expert on indigenous resource management strategies, is back in the Peruvian Amazon to continue documenting the ways in which the



Asst. Professor Constanza Ocampo-Raeder with Ese eja children.

Ese eja people manage their local resources. This field season, her research is being funded through a grant from the Women in the Curriculum and focuses on the role of women in monitoring resource management activities in the community. In particular, Constanza is interested in how women enlist children to observe and communicate what they see happening around the village. Constanza believes that this “spying” process allows an Ese eja family to keep track of their property in a forested area inhabited by many families and that it may be a key factor in using these forests in sustainable ways.

Meanwhile, **Greg Zaro**, an expert on prehistoric land use and agricultural practices, is working in the desert and mountain regions of Peru continuing his research on desertification processes and the potential long-term role humans may have played in that process.

On a broad level, Greg’s research, which is funded through a UMaine Faculty Research Grant, is investigating several human activities that can play a significant role in desertification: agriculture; pastoralism; deforestation; and industrial activity. Greg is collaborating with UMaine faculty **Steve Norton** (Earth Sciences) and **Sue Erich** (Plants, Soils, and Environmental Sciences) and has included undergraduate student **Laura Labbe** in this summer’s field research.



Asst. Professor Greg Zaro in Peru.

Dan Sandweiss, a South American archaeologist with expertise on global climate change and El Niño events, has been conducting innovative research exploring human settlement patterns associated with environmental change in Peru. He has been working with graduate student **Kurt Rademaker** and undergraduate **David Reid** who visited Peru a number of times to participate in collaborative, NSF-funded, paleoclimatic research along the Peruvian Pacific coast. The student team has backpacked 100 km through a virtually unexplored canyon from the Pacific coast to 5,000 m (~16,500 feet) elevation in the Andean highlands, discovering numerous archaeological sites that may be the highest elevation, ice-age human settlements in the world. This summer, Dan and colleagues from other institutions continue research along the Peruvian coast on climate change and early civilization. Dan, Kurt, and David’s work has been published in both *Science* and *Nature*, the most prestigious scientific journals.■



Graduate student Kurt Rademaker in Peru.

National Science Foundation Research Grants Starting and Finishing

This spring **Jim Acheson** received a large grant from The National Science Foundation to conduct cultural and environmental policy research on the groundfish industry in Maine. Undergraduate **Michelle Martin** is helping Jim conduct mail surveys and personal interviews of fishermen this summer. This research is a continuation of Jim's extensive study of the Maine lobstering industry, summarized in *The Lobster Gangs of Maine*, listed as one of the top 100 books on Maine and now celebrating its 20th Anniversary of publication. Jim's research on the lobster and fishery industries led to one of the most successful environmental policy initiatives nationwide, and in 2004 his efforts were lauded with an Official Expression of Recognition by the 121st State of Maine Legislature. He is the only UMaine faculty member ever to receive such a commendation. This type of research and policy is what we envision at the core of our planned Ph.D. in Anthropology and Environmental Policy.



Anthropology undergraduate
Michelle Martin



Professor Jim Acheson speaking with a local lobsterman in Spruce Head, Maine.

As Jim's NSF grant is starting up, **Brian Robinson** is finishing his four year NSF funded research on the Bull Brook Paleoindian Site. Bull Brook is the largest Late Pleistocene site currently known in North America, and the results from this project will help us better understand human occupation, migration, trading networks, and settlement patterns during this early period. Brian reconstructed the mapping of Bull Brook using old excavator notes, interviews, and photographs, and reanalyzed its stone-tools finds with the help of graduate student **Jen Ort**. ■

Religious Fundamentalism is a Hot Topic

Henry Munson, our resident religion expert, has a blog on Religion, Nationalism, and Terror, his research expertise. The blog focuses on the various ways religion has been used to legitimate violence against civilians for political purposes. It also focuses on the various social and nationalistic grievances that often induce Muslims to support militant Islamic groups. At the same time, it covers the intolerant aspects of reactionary religious movements in general. Henry also posts articles dealing with theories of religion.



Professor Henry Munson

The blog is <http://religionandterror.com/>. Henry has previously published books through Yale University Press entitled *Religion in the Middle East*, and *The House of Si Abd Allah: The Oral History of a Moroccan Family*. ■

"A doctor who misdiagnoses a patient's problem will probably not resolve it. So too a government that does not understand the roots of terrorism will probably not succeed in eliminating it."

Henry Munson



Paleonutrition Research Continues

Kristin Sobolik, prehistoric archaeologist and expert in archaeobiology, continues her research on paleonutrition and other areas of biological analyses of materials recovered from archaeological sites. She finished writing a book on *Paleonutrition* with two other colleagues that will be published this coming year by the University of Arizona Press. She has been receiving interesting samples in the mail as paleofeces arrive from all over the world for analysis. This past year Kristin and Graduate Student **Sam Belknap** looked at the purported last meal of Amelia Earhart and dozens of samples from the southwestern United States, and she is currently analyzing a paleofecal sample that may contain evidence of prehistoric cannibalism. Kristin is also working with other colleagues to recover and analyze ancient DNA from paleofeces to analyze viral, bacterial, human, plant, and animal genetics. ■

Roscoe Receives Research and Creative Achievement Award

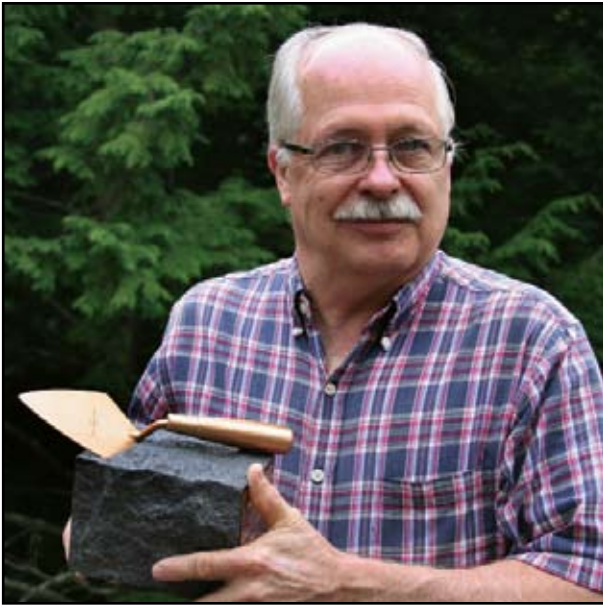
Paul Roscoe, alias “Jim”, received this year’s College Research and Creative Achievement Award. Jim is one of the few anthropologists who has published in all four of the leading international cultural anthropology journals: *American Anthropologist*; *American Ethnologist*; *Current Anthropology*; and *Man/Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. Jim’s fieldwork centers on Papua New Guinea, yet his research transcends geographic boundaries and encompasses global issues of climate change, warfare, incest taboos, and environmental resource use. He also received the prestigious University Presidential Teaching Award in 1996. This coming year Jim is on sabbatical working on two books that analyze military practice (how war was fought) and the causes and consequences of war in contact-era

Hornsby Sabbatical

Stephen Hornsby, Director of the Canadian-American Center, has spent his spring semester on sabbatical working on two projects. First, Stephen continued work on the huge, interdisciplinary *Historical Atlas of Maine*. The atlas is an ambitious project that presents, in maps and visual images, the historical geography of Maine from the end of the last ice age to the recent millennium. The project pays particular attention to transnational and cultural contexts, and includes demographic, social, and economic data. Second, Stephen has been busy writing a new book, *Surveyors of Empire: Samuel Holland, J.F.W. Des Barres and the Making of the Atlantic Neptune*. This book deals with the systematic British surveying of northeastern North America (including Maine) in the 1760s and early 1770s, and the publication of the survey maps in the four-volume *Atlantic Neptune*, generally regarded as one of the greatest nautical atlases ever produced and a monument of Enlightenment Science. ■



New Guinea. His hope is that this will provide insights on the human propensity for organized killing of their own species and the consequences of this killing for human society and culture in general. ■



Famous Historical Archaeologist Retires

Alaric Faulkner, Historical Archaeologist extraordinaire, retired at the end of this year and was lauded (and roasted) with a party attended by his UMaine colleagues and friends, esteemed historical archaeology colleagues from around the state, and numerous former students. He was presented with *The Golden Marshalltown Trowel* to honor his exceptional service to archaeology and his superb fieldwork projects. During his 30 years at UMaine, Ric conducted an extensive field research program focused in his areas of expertise: the Anglo-Acadian frontier, 17th century Maine and the Maritimes, and colonial archaeology. His book on *The French at Pentagoet* is listed as one of the top 100 books on Maine, and he has helped to record and preserve some of the rarer and more important archaeological sites in the country. Fort Pentagoet and Saint Castin's Habitation, both in Castine, Maine, are now National Historic Landmarks due to Ric's tireless efforts. Recently, as a member of the Jamestown Rediscovery Advisory Board, Ric attended a reception for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown. We will miss seeing Ric in the department everyday, but he will continue his research at the UMaine Historical Archaeology Lab. ■

Rexford St. John Caning Ceremony Held

Professor Emeritus Edward "Sandy" Ives, founding Director of the Maine Folklife Center, originated The Rexford St. John Boyington Walking Stick Memorial Award, ceremonially presented whenever a member of the faculty publishes a book. These ceremonies are called canings, and the first recipient was **Ric Faulkner** in 1987 for his book on Fort Pentagoet. Since that first



Professor Emeritus David Sanger presents the Rexford St. John Boyington cane to Professor Dan Sandweiss.

celebration, there have been 32 canings, with the most recent ceremony held this past year. **Professor Emeritus David Sanger**, who had received the cane for his book on *The Archaic of the Far Northeast*, passed it on to **Dan Sandweiss**, for his book *Climatic Change and Cultural Dynamics: A Global Perspective on Holocene Transitions*, edited with D.G. Anderson and **K.A. Maasch** and published by Academic Press. Ric fittingly played the role of Rexford St. John Boyington for this most recent caning (*right*), and eloquently read Boyington's biography for the event. Faculty in possession of the cane are occasionally seen strutting regally up and down the halls of S. Stevens, ostentatiously twirling said artifact. ■

Think of him, then, as that wonderful old professor whose lectures always ended just five seconds before the bell rang; who always wore a wing collar, even to the department picnic; who never removed his jacket in office or classroom, no matter how hot the day.

Edward "Sandy" Ives, describing
Rexford St. John Boyington





Chair Kristin Sobolik congratulates Anthropology major, Anna Ridgel, on her academic achievement.

Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club was very active this year holding regular bimonthly meetings to interact with like-minded people. President **Kristen Kuhns** led the charge and set up a number of events for club members. One event involved Brown Bag Lunches with Anthropology Faculty to discuss all aspects of Anthropology. Another event was Anthropology Night to introduce the discipline and major to interested students. Organized venues included The Anthropology Club, two Anthropology faculty (Roscoe and Sobolik), The Career Center, and The Study Abroad Program. Undergraduate and Graduate Students with anthropological field experience were also present to share their stories. We are excited that the Club was so successful this year and hope that student involvement continues! ■



Anthropology graduate, David Reid, at the Chankillo Site, Peru.

First Annual Department Honors Reception

We held our first student honors reception this year to recognize majors who have achieved Honor Roll status. A large student audience was lured to the department with the offer of free pizza, soda, and cake, and all honorees received a congratulatory certificate. In all, 40 students were honored. **Jennifer Berry** received our Top Scholar Award for earning the highest GPA after her first semester, receiving a Gift Certificate from the UMaine Bookstore. **David Reid**, who graduated in December, received our 2008 Outstanding Student Award.

David participated in three archaeological field seasons in Peru and has initiated his own original field project studying the effects of past climate change events on prehistoric archaeological settlement patterns in northern Peru. This work formed the basis of his Undergraduate Honors Thesis. We will continue the tradition of honoring our excellent Anthropology majors! ■

Student Field Research Funds

We have support from the Getty Foundation for small grants to help students attain archaeological field research experience. The Getty Fund supported **David Reid's** research in Peru (see page 3, and pictured above), **Laura Labbe's** first field experience working on prehistoric agricultural landscape changes in Peru (see page 1), and **Jen Ort's** research on lithic diversity and distribution patterns at the Bull Brook Paleoindian Site here in the Northeast (see page 4).

We also have another fund established in the name of **Professor Emeritus David Sanger** that will provide funding for student archaeological research once the principal has grown larger. We would like to grow these funds so that we can provide more students with the opportunity for archaeological field and research experience. In addition, we would like to provide support for students to attain cultural anthropological experience and we hope to develop a fund devoted to that purpose soon. ■



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A lot is going on here in Anthropology at UMaine and we need your help! We are strengthening the program by working on adding a Ph.D. in Anthropology and Environmental Policy while retaining our excellent, broad-based undergraduate curriculum. The number of our majors is increasing, and we want to provide field and research experience support for as many as possible. While some students are funded through faculty grants, many more opportunities can be made available if some basic expenses are met. Please help us by sending your donation to the Anthropology Department. You can earmark your donation for student field and research opportunities in archaeology, cultural anthropology, or just for general anthropological support. Your donation is tax deductible and we appreciate your support!

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